

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-17 and 19-21 are pending in the above application.

The Office Action dated January 24, 2006, has been received and carefully reviewed. In that Office Action, it was indicated that claims 16, 17 and 19-21 had been allowed. Claims 1 and 5-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by the discussion at pages 1-4 of the present application. Claims 3, 4 and 11-15 are objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim but are indicated to be allowable if amended to include the limitations of their base claims. Because it is not believed that the background section of the application shows or suggests the invention required by the pending claims, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 and 5-10 is respectfully requested.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS

Information disclosure statements were filed in this application on February 21, 2002, August 19, 2002, and May 5, 2004. Initialed copies of the forms PTO-1449 submitted with these IDS's were not attached to the February 23, 2005, Office Action. In the Reply filed May 20, 2005, Applicant requested that the examiner return initialed copies of the above forms PTO-1449.

No forms PTO-1449 were attached to the January 24, 2006, Office Action. However, on February 28, 2006, an initialed copy of the form PTO-1449 from the May 5, 2004, Office Action was received. Initialed copies of the forms PTO-1449 filed February 21, 2002, and August 19, 2002, still have not been received.

It is again respectfully requested that the examiner initial and return copies of the forms PTO-1449 filed with information disclosure statements on February 21, 2002, and August 19, 2002, to show that the references listed thereon have been considered.

SUBSTANTIVE REJECTION

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by the discussion of various prior casting apparatuses at pages 1-4 of the application. The rejection appears to be based on a misinterpretation of drawing Figures 19-21. Figure 19, for example, shows a drum

with shaft portions 11a and a core member 11. Core member 11 is integral with the shaft members (see page 2, lines 14-15). The drawing figures illustrate cooling channels in the core member, but the core member extends from one shaft member 11a to the other shaft member 11a. In other words, the material on opposite sides of the cooling passages comprises core member 11. This core member 11 contacts shaft members 11a and does not satisfy the limitation of claim 1 which requires a core member located between shaft members without contacting the shaft members.

In the invention of claim 1, on the other hand, the core member 11b is located between the shaft members 11a but does not contact the shaft members. In the embodiment illustrated in Figure 1, for example, it can be seen that elements 11a and 11b are not in contact. This structure is described at page 19, lines 2-8. For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the discussion of prior casting apparatus in the background section of the application does not show or suggest the invention required by claim 1, and claim 1 is submitted to be allowable over the background section of the application for at least this reason.

Claims 3-15 depend from claim 1 and are submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

CONCLUSION

Each issue raised in the Office Action dated January 24, 2006, has been addressed, and it is believed that claims 1, 3-17 and 19-21 are in condition for allowance. Wherefore reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 and 5-10 and allowance of claims 1, 3-17 and 19-21 is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Scott Wakeman (Reg. No. 37,750) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

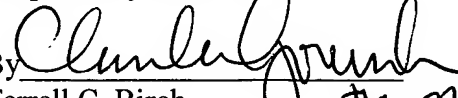
Application No. 10/069,069
Amendment dated April 24, 2006
Reply to Office Action of January 24, 2006


Docket No.: 0965-0380P

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: April 24, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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